

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

January 14, 1958

The following investigation was conducted by SA
ROBERT L. WILSON:

On December 7, 1957, Mrs. FRANCES IVY RIDULPH, 616 Archie Place, Sycamore, mother of the victim, advised as follows: Mrs. RIDULPH recalled that the family completed dinner about 5:30 PM (on December 3, 1957), as was their custom. She recalled that about 5:50 PM, MARIA went outside to play with her neighbor playmate, KATHY SIGMAN. In this regard, she said after considering the matter, that MARIA had asked her early in the day if she could play outside after dark with KATHY and appeared unusually eager to go out, as if she had a purpose in mind.

She said MARIA normally did not play out after supper during the winter because it was dark and cold and she was not the outdoor-type girl. She said in the summer MARIA almost always played outside with the other children, while it was light. She said that MARIA after supper asked again if she could go out and Mrs. RIDULPH gave permission. She said MARIA then rushed to the telephone and called KATHY SIGMAN and said, "I can go out--can you?" and apparently KATHY replied affirmatively.

She said MARIA, in preparing to go out, asked if she must wear her shabby tan overcoat which was a seven-year old coat handed down from her brother, CHARLES. Mrs. RIDULPH insisted that she wear it so that she would not wear out her newer coats. Mrs. RIDULPH said that she normally does not grant permission to MARIA to play outside at night but for some reason, she allowed her to do this on this occasion.

At about 6:00 or 6:05 PM, Mrs. RIDULPH and her 15-year old daughter KAY, left the house to drive KAY to her music lesson, and at that time they both saw MARIA on the sidewalk in front of the house with her playmate, KATHY SIGMAN, headed toward the corner of Archie Place and Center Cross Street.

About 6:15 PM, as she returned from taking KAY to the music teacher, Mrs. RIDULPH recalled she saw KATHY and MARIA still playing, on the corner. On the outbound trip she recalled an oil truck delivering oil to the CLIFF house at the corner but could not specifically recall the truck being there on her return. She said she thought but was not certain that the oil truck was parked on

Interview with Mrs. FRANCES IVY RIDULPH

on 12/7/58 at 616 Archie Place, Sycamore

by Special Agent ROBERT L. WILSON
RLW:JEM

Dictated: 1/7/58

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the Agency to which loaned.

Center Cross Street in front of the CLIFFE house with its rear end projecting slightly into Archie Place. As she returned she definitely recalls that MARIA and KATHY were on that corner by the big tree and that MARIA called and waved to her as she drove by. There was no other person with them at that time.

About 6:40 p.m., while Mrs. RIDULPH was in her first floor bedroom reading the newspaper, MARIA came into the bedroom and said she wanted a doll. Mrs. RIDULPH inquired what doll she wanted and MARIA designated a new, good doll. She refused to allow MARIA to take the new doll outside for fear of damaging it and suggested she get an older one. MARIA then left the room and went into the living room where Mr. RIDULPH was watching television. Mrs. RIDULPH heard her rummaging around in her "corner" in the southwest corner of the living room, which is immediately opposite the bedroom wall, and she assumed that she took one of her older dolls from her pile of toys in the corner. She did not see her take this doll and thinks she went outside again but did not see her leave.

At this time her daughter PATRICIA was in the dining room of the house doing her homework. Mr. RIDULPH was still watching television in the living room and her son CHARLES was in the den at the rear of the house with his nextdoor neighbor chum RANDY STROMBOM, listening to records.

At about 6:45 p.m., Mrs. RIDULPH said KATHY SIGMAN came to the side door of the house and inquired of CHARLES where MARIA was. CHARLES came to the bedroom door and told her that KATHY couldn't find MARIA. KATHY then left after being told that MARIA was not in the house.

About 6:50 p.m., KATHY came back and told CHARLES that MARIA was lost. CHARLES reported this to Mrs. RIDULPH and she went into the living room and told her husband.

A few moments later Mr. RIDULPH went out on the side porch and called MARIA. A moment later, Mrs. RIDULPH put on her coat and joined her husband outside. They walked to the corner and called for MARIA with negative results. Out on the sidewalk they encountered KATHY and her 11-year old brother EDWARD. They asked the SIGMAN children where MARIA was and

they said they did not know. It was Mrs. RIDULPH's impression that EDWARD might have been with KATHY in the area when she came to the house the second time but she could not recall the basis for this idea. The SIGMAN children headed west on Archie Place toward their home.

Mrs. RIDULPH said she and her husband then looked in the backyard and at the corner and continued to call for MARIA.

Mrs. RIDULPH then returned to the house where she telephoned Mrs. SIGMAN to inquire if MARIA was there. Mrs. SIGMAN said she was not there but her own children were there.

Mrs. RIDULPH then went to the front of the house and conferred with her husband while CHARLES and his friend RANDY took a flashlight and went out to look for MARIA. Mrs. RIDULPH went across the street to the WILLIAM LINDSTROM house to inquire about MARIA with negative results.

She returned and telephoned Mrs. SIGMAN again. Mrs. SIGMAN now told her a man had been playing with KATHY and MARIA but no further information.

Mrs. RIDULPH now backed their car out, picked up her husband, and drove to Roosevelt Court, a deadend street parallel to Archie Place and immediately to the north. MARIA had in the past occasionally played with a JOHN PETERSON who lives on this street. Mr. RIDULPH got out of the car and with his whistle, whistled for MARIA and he looked in the window of the PETERSON house but said he saw only two ladies watching television and did not make inquiry there.

They next drove west on DeKalb Avenue where they encountered their daughter PATRICIA and CHARLES and RANDY, somewhere in the vicinity of DeKalb Avenue and Fair Street. They took them in the car and circled the block and returned home without seeing MARIA.

By this time other neighbors in the area were aware of MARIA's disappearance and were out seeking her also.

About 7:25 p.m., KAY returned from her music lesson and was told of MARIA's disappearance.

Sometime after 7:30 p.m., Mrs. RIDULPH called Mrs. SIGMAN to inquire from KATHY what MARIA had taken outside and was told it was a doll. She said she thought Mrs. SIGMAN at this time mentioned something about a man giving the girls piggy-back rider but could not clearly recall.

-29- 7-8782 -187

Finally she decided to report MARIA's disappearance to the police and she and PATRICIA drove to the police station. On the way, however, they drove past a creek on Mill Street on the chance that MARIA might be playing near it and then drove through a lumber yard on Grant Street since she might be playing among the piles of lumber. She said MARIA was not known to frequent these places but they simply went there with the thought of just looking anywhere. She recalled that when she left the house it was about 7:50 p.m.

After driving through the above mentioned places, they drove straight to the police station and reported MARIA's disappearance. After telling the story to the police she understood they dispatched police cars to the area of their home.

Mrs. RIDULPH and PATRICIA then drove to the Elmwood Cemetery in the event MARIA had wandered up there as she had strayed there a year or so previous and then returned home where the area was being searched by neighbors and authorities.

Mrs. RIDULPH said she had wanted to contact the police shortly after MARIA was reported missing but her husband dissuaded her, explaining that MARIA had probably just strayed a short distance away and it would be embarrassing and cause a great commotion if she was located a short distance from home.

Mrs. RIDULPH said MARIA has played with KATHY SIGMAN for years and that KATHY is her closest chum. They get along well together with only the minor frictions that would normally be expected of children that age.

The RIDULPHs are casually acquainted with the SIGMANs and are on a first name basis but do not have social contact.

Mrs. RIDULPH noted that when the two girls play at the SIGMAN house, they are not permitted in the house but must remain in the unheated garage as Mrs. SIGMAN does not want her home dirtied by the children.

As a result of this, the two girls usually play at the RIDULPH home when they play indoors as Mrs. RIDULPH displays a more liberal attitude.

- 30 -

7 - 8782 - 187

Mrs. SIGMAN, said Mrs. RIDULPH, is quick to complain to her if MARIA hurts KATHY in their play or in their infrequent arguments and aggressively takes her child's part. She said the girls occasionally hit each other or fight over something and one or the other gets the worst of it, but the children quickly forget their differences and are as close friends as ever. Mrs. RIDULPH said there is no animosity between the 2 families and she regards the SIGMANs as people of good reputation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

Date: 1/14/58

The following investigation was conducted by SA
ROBERT L. WILSON:

On December 7, 1957, MICHAEL RIDULPH, 616 Archie Place, Sycamore, Illinois, father of victim, advised of the following: On December 3, 1957, the family completed supper about 5:30 p.m. Mr. RIDULPH recalled that from that time until about 6:30 p.m. he read the paper in the living room. He thinks but is not certain that he began to watch television about 6:30 p.m. He thinks the program was "Cheyenne" or the "Jim Bowie" show or perhaps some other frontier program.

He cannot recall specifically but thinks MARIA went out to play about 6:15 p.m. He could not specifically recall her asking permission but assumed she would have consulted her mother before going out.

Mr. RIDULPH recalls that at an undetermined time while he was watching television, MARIA went into the living room and went to her "corner". This is the southwest corner of the living room where she keeps some toys. After going to her corner for a moment, MARIA went out. He could not recall if she took anything from the corner or what she was wearing.

Mr. RIDULPH was still watching television when he heard KATHY SIGMAN, MARIA's favorite playmate, talking to his son, CHARLES, who was listening to records in the den with his nextdoor neighbor chum, RANDY STROMBOM.

CHARLES came in the living room and told him that KATHY said MARIA could not be found. Mr. RIDULPH then went out the side door of the house and saw KATHY and her eleven year old brother EDWARD in the drive. He called MARIA from the steps, then went down to the sidewalk and called, and finally walked down to the corner of Archie Place and Center Cross and called, again with negative results. Mrs. RIDULPH then came out and they took their car and drove around the block searching for MARIA. They returned home. He thinks Mrs. RIDULPH then called Mrs. SIGMAN down the block on Archie Place to inquire as to where MARIA might be. He could not recall what Mrs. SIGMAN replied.

Interview with MICHAEL RIDULPH

File # 7-806

on 12-7-57 at 616 Archie Pl., Sycamore, Illinois

Date Dictated: 1/7/58

by Special Agent ROBERT L. WILSON

- 35 -

8732 - 187

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

He then got out his police whistle which he sometimes uses to call the children and went outside and blew the whistle for MARIA. He and his wife then drove in the car to Roosevelt Court, a street parallel to Archie Place and immediately to the north, and whistled for MARIA. She sometimes plays with a PETERSON boy in that block and he looked in the window of the PETERSON home but saw only two women watching television and did not go in.

Mr. RIDULPH stated his wife then took the car and went to the police station to report MARIA missing but he could not recall if anyone accompanied her.

Mr. RIDULPH said he then telephoned the PENS family on Fair Street, whose daughter is a schoolmate of MARIA's, but Mr. PENS stated she was not there although she had been there early that afternoon after school.

His daughter KAY insisted that he go to the Police Department and report MARIA's disappearance and assist his wife so he drove there in the family's second car. When he arrived at the police station he found that his wife had just left after reporting MARIA's disappearance and he provided them with what details he had. While at the police station he met his daughter KAY who had walked there and he drove her home. He then joined a friend, GLENN MOORE, and with flashlights they searched the area around his home. He says that they saw footprints of a man in the thin snow lying on a plowed field behind the JOHNSON house at 515 Center Cross Street and noted these footprints were headed in the general westerly direction of the intersection of DeKalb Avenue and Fair Street. He could not recall the character or appearance of these footprints and noted that they were all obliterated by searchers in the area and when the snow melted the following morning.

Mr. RIDULPH said he then later joined another friend and neighbor STANLEY WELLS, who lives on Center Cross Street, and drove rather aimlessly down to Electric Park Road near a creek and Lover's Lane and search there.

He and WELLS then drove to DeKalb, Illinois about five miles away to make sure that the police there had been alerted. He met a police car on the street and the officers told him they were aware of MARIA's disappearance.

They then searched various gravel pits and dumps near Cortland, Illinois, with the thought in mind that MARIA might have been the victim of foul play and her body deposited there. He later returned home and joined the general search in the area.

He recalled that in searching the general area behind and to the west of his home, he saw a strange man about 40 years old come out of the CARR house on Fair Street and inquired of an unknown person with him who the man was and was told he was the CARR son. He said this man acted peculiarly but could give no explanation of what he meant by peculiarly. He said this man then went inside and secured heavy shoes and came out and joined the search for MARIA. He said he had never seen this man before.

Mr. RIDULPH said when MARIA was first reported by KATHY as missing he had been reluctant to contact the police for fear of personal embarrassment since it was logical to assume that she had only strayed a short distance away and would be quickly found.

Mr. RIDULPH said he has no enemies of any kind and has no idea of anyone who might wish to harm him or any member of his family. He said MARIA was a happy, intelligent child who had never run away before and had never given any inclination that she wished to run away. He said she had behaved well, had not been recently punished, and had displayed no resentment against anyone in the family or anyone else. He said the family gets along well together and he and the entire family loved MARIA very much.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

Date: 1/14/58

On December 15, 1957, MICHAEL RIDULPH, victim's father, advised SA ROBERT L. WILSON he recalled that on December 3, 1957, shortly after MARIA's disappearance a young man acquaintance of his daughter KAY came to the door to inquire for her. He thought the time was some time between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m., but was not certain but did not think KAY was home at the time being still at her music lesson. This young man, age about 17, came to the door to ask for KAY and RIDULPH noted he had apparently come in a Rambler auto parked outside and there was another youth in the car.

He told this fellow who he thinks is named PAUL (LNU) that KAY was not at home and he left. He could not recall whether he told him at that time that MARIA was missing because of the ensuing confusion.

It should be noted other inquiry has established that this caller was PAUL HOLDERMAN, an acquaintance of KAY, and inquiry has been conducted regarding him.

Mr. RIDULPH also recalled that when MARIA came to get her doll prior to her disappearance that KATHY was not with her and he noted that he hardly noticed MARIA come into the living room as he was intently watching television.

Interview with MICHAEL RIDULPH

File # 7-806

on 12-15-57 at Sycamore, Illinois

Date Dictated: 1/7/58

by Special Agent ROBERT L. WILSON

bjw

- 38 -

8782 - 187

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 4 1957
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Casper ✓
Mr. Parsons ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Trotter ✓
Mr. Clayton ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

URGENT 12-4-57 7-35 P M RPM

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION MR. ROSEN

FROM SAC, CHICAGO 6 P

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, ONE, WA. JOHNNY., MARIA RIDULPH, ALLEGED KIDNAPPING.

REFERENCE MY CONVERSATION WITH MR. ROSEN. DATA RECEIVED THAT MARIA RIDULPH, AGE SEVEN OF SIX ONE SIX ARCHIE PLACE, SYCAMORE, ILL., BELIEVED TO BE KIDNAPPED. FACTS DEVELOPED REFLECT MARIA TELEPHONED PLAYMATE MARY KATHERINE SIGMAN, AGE EIGHT, OF SIX FOUR FOUR AND ONE HALF ARCHIE PLACE, AT SIX THIRTY PM LAST NIGHT, REQUESTING HER TO COME OUT & PLAY. KATHY-S MOTHER APPROVED & KATHY MET MARIA AT ARCHIE PLACE AND CENTER CROSS ST. THREE HOUSES EAST OF MARIA-S HOME. FOLLOWING STORY COMES FROM KATHY SIGMAN AND ONLY VERIFICATION IS AS TO TIME INVOLVED, FROM KATHY-S MOTHER THEY PLAYED ON THE FRONT EDGE OF THE LAWN OF A PRIVATE HOME AND AROUND A LARGE TREE ADJACENT TO THE SIDEWALK IN A GAME CALLED QUOTE DUCK FROM THE CARS UNQUOTE. GAME CONCERNS POINTS DEDUCTED AS APPROACHING CARS-S HEADLIGHTS ARE ABLE TO FOCUS ON CHILD-S CLOTHING BEFORE GIRL DUCKS BEHIND TREE. APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER PLAY STARTED THEY LOOKED UP AND SAW A MAN APPROACHING ON FOOT ALONG THE SIDEWALK. THEY DID NOT NOTICE HIM UNTIL HE WAS VERY CLOSE. HE SPOKE TO THE GIRLS SAYING

END PAGE ONE

Mr. Rosen

68 DEC 16 1957

7 - 8782 - 33

PAGE TWO

HELLO, LITTLE GIRLS, ARE YOU HAVING FUN, TO WHICH THEY ANSWERED YES. THE MAN THEN SAID DO YOU WANT TO PLAY PIGGY BACK. KATHY SAID NO AND MARIA SAID YES. UNSUB THEN PUT MARIA ON HIS BACK AND WALKED ONTO FRONT LAWN DOWN PROPERTY LINE FENCE WHICH SEPARATES THE TWO HOUSES, TOWARD A GARAGE IN THE BACKGROUND, A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTY YARDS, AND RETURNED TO THE SIDEWALK SPOT AND PUT MARIA DOWN. HE THEN TOLD THE GIRLS THAT HIS NAME WAS JOHNNY, THAT HE WAS NOT MARRIED, AND ASKED THEM THEIR NAMES, WHICH THEY GAVE HIM. HE THEN ASKED MARIA IF SHE HAD A DOLL AND TOLD HER HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT AND ASKED HER TO GET ONE. SHE RAN TO HER HOME AND WHILE SHE WAS GONE, UNSUB PUT HIS HAND ON KATHY-S ARM AND SAID ~~QUOTE~~ " I LIKE YOU, KATHY ~~UNQUOTE~~. SHE RESPONDED ~~QUOTE~~ " I LIKE YOU TOO ~~UNQUOTE~~. HE THEN ASKED HER IF SHE WOULD LIKE TO GO FOR A PIGGY BACK RIDE OR A BUS RIDE OR A TRUCK RIDE, AND SHE SAID NO. ~~WARRANTED~~ MARIA THEN RETURNED WITH HER DOLL AND UNSUB HANDLED IT AND SAID IT WAS PRETTY AND HAD A PRETTY DRESS ON AND RETURNED IT TO MARIA. HE THEN ASKED MARIA

AND PAGE TWO

7 - 8782 - 38

PAGE THREE

SHE WANTED ANOTHER RIDE AND SHE GOT ON HIS BACK DURING WHICH TIME SHE HELD HER DOLL. HE COVERED THE SAME ROUTE AND RETURNED MARIA TO THE ORIGINAL SPOT. KATHY THEN MENTIONED SHE WAS COLD AND SAID SHE WAS GOING HOME TO GET HER MITTENS. SHE ASKED THE MAN WHAT TIME IT WAS AND HE REPLIED SEVEN O-CLOCK. KATHY THEN ASKED MARIA TO GO WITH HER BUT SHE REFUSED. KATHY THEN RAN HOME, A DISTANCE OF APPORXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YARDS, GOT HER MITTENS, AND AGAIN ASKED HER MOTHER FOR PERMISSION TO GO OUT. SHE THEN RETURNED TO THE SPOT BUT DID NOT SEE MARIA OR THE UNSUB, WHEREUPON SHE WENT TO MARIA-S HOME AND TOLD MARIA-S MOTHER THAT SHE HAD LEFT MARIA WITH THE MAN. SHE THEN RETURNED TO HER OWN HOME ABOUT SEVEN TEN AND TOLD HER MOTHER WHAT HAD HAPPENED. MARIA-S MOTHER LATER CALLED KATHY-S HOME TO ASK KATHY TO GO OUT AND LOOK FOR MARIA. VICTIMS FAMILY, CONSISTING OF TWO OTHER CHILDREN AND MOTHER AND FATHER, LIVE IN QUIET, MIDDLE-CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD OFF MAIN ROAD. (FATHER EMPLOYED IN DIAMOND, WIRE AND CABLE PLANT AT SYCAMORE. FAMILY TAKING SITUATION

END PAGE THREE

7 - 8782 - 33

PAGE FOUR

VERY COOLY NOW AND HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED THIS AFTERNOON BY AGENTS TO GET AVAILABLE DATA. FAMILY ADVISED THAT IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION WE ARE MAKING INQUIRIES TO ESTABLISH SUFFICIENT FACTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY FEDERAL VIOLATION WITHIN OUR JURISDICTION. BY TEN PM LAST NIGHT LOCAL COMMUNITY HAD BEEN ALLERTED TO POINT WHERE APPROXIMATELY EIGHT HUNDRED TO ONE THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS, ETC., MADE PHYSICAL SEARCH OF AREA WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. FIFTEEN AIRPLANES REPORTED AS SEARCHING AREA BY SECTOR TODAY. SYCAMORE IS CITY OF SEVEN THOUSAND POPULATION AND COUNTY SEAT OF DE KALB COUNTY. SHERIFF HAS FOUR DEPUTIES AND CITY CHIEF OF POLICE HAS ^{CE} ~~FOR~~ OF EIGHT. SYCAMORE IS

LOCATED APPROXIMATELY SIXTYFIVE MILES TO WEST OF CG, FORTY MILES SOUTH OF WISCONSIN BORDER ON THE NORTH AND ONE HUNDRED TWENTYFIVE MILES EAST OF IOWA BORDER ON THE WEST. FEW ROUTES LEADING NORTH BUT SYCAMORE ON MAIN ROUTE SIXTYFOUR WEST. FURTHER, ALTERNATE ROUTE THIRTY WHICH RUNS INTO REGULAR ROUTE THIRTY TO THE WEST IS ABOUT SIX MILES SOUTH OF CITY AND PARALLEL TO ROUTE SIXTYFOUR. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HAVE GROUPED TOGETHER AND THROUGH AREA CHECKS PRELIMINARILY APPEARS NO ONE IN SYCAMORE ANSWERING DESCRIPTION OF UNSUB GIVEN BY KATHY. UNSUB DESCRIBED AS FIVE FT. EIGHT, ONE EIGHTY LBS., CREW NECK SWEATER WITH GREEN, BLUE & YELLOW DESIGN, NO COAT, GRAY HAT WHICH HE TOOK OFF REFLECTING LIGHT HAIR WORN LONG, APPROXIMATELY TWENTYFIVE TO THIRTYFIVE YEARS OLD, TALKED

END PAGE FOUR

7 - 8782 - 38

PAGE FIVE

IN THIN HIGH VOICE, RIGHT UPPER EYE TOOTH MISSING, CLEAN SHAVEN, NOT SEEDY, BLUE JEANS WITH NARROW BELT AND SHINY BUCKLE. DESCRIPTION ARRIVED AT BY COMPARISON WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS. SINCE DISAPPEARANCE LAST NIGHT ESTIMATED TWELVE DIFFERENT AGENCIES INCLUDING PRESS HAVE INTERVIEWED KATHY WHO SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING THE LIMELIGHT BUT HANDLES HERSELF WELL. PHYSICAL SEARCH LAST NIGHT NECESSARILY LIMITED SINCE WAS ALREADY DARK BEFORE THEY STARTED AND ABOUT SIXTEEN DEGREES ABOVE WITH SMALL SNOW FLURRIES. NO LOCAL OR CHICAGO PRESS HANDLED STORY THIS MORNING BUT THIS AFTERNOON IT IS HEADLINES FRONT PAGE. ONLY INQUIRY MADE OF THIS OFFICE WAS INS WHICH WAS TOLD THAT WE WERE IN LIAISON WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. IN VIEW OF TWENTYFOUR HR. PRESUMPTION WE ARE GOING INTO CASE FOR FULL INVESTIGATION. I AM SETTING UP TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS AT DE KALB, SIX MILES FROM SYCAMORE DUE TO PRESS COVERAGE OF SYCAMORE. EIGHTEEN AGENTS ARE ASSIGNED AND CURRENTLY WORKING CASE. WE ARE CONCENTRATING ON INVESTIGATIVE LEADS RATHER THAN SEARCH DUE TO NIGHT CONDITIONS AND WILL CHECK THIS LATTER ANGLE AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING. CURRENT FOCUS OF INVESTIGATION INCLUDES NEIGHBORHOOD, LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND TAVERNS WHERE UNSUB MAY HAVE EATEN PRIOR TO SITUATION SINCE IT TOOK PLACE AT SEVEN PM, CHECK OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES SINCE TRUCK MENTIONED BY UNSUB, LOCAL HANGOUT PLACES FOR YOUNG INDIVIDUAL, ALL FILLING STATIONS, GARAGES, BUS AND RAILROAD STATIONS PLUS NEARBY DE KALB COLLEGE.

END PAGE FIVE

7 - 8782 - 38

PAGE SIX

SEPARATE INQUIRY ALSO BEING CONDUCTED TO ASCERTAIN IDENTITY OF PAROLEES AND RELEASEES IN AREA FROM ILL. STATE REFORMATORY, ILL. STATE PENITENTIARY AND ANY FEDERAL RELEASEES LOCATED IN AREA. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF TELEPHONE AT TEMPORARY LOCATION AND CURRENT INFORMATION DEVELOPED. SPRINGFIELD CONTACT ALL MENTAL INSTITUTIONS, ASYLUMS AND PENAL INSTITUTIONS YOUR DIVISION TO OBTAIN IDENTITIES AND WHEREABOUTS OF ANY INDIVIDUALS RECENTLY RELEASED AND FITTING DESCRIPTION OF UNSUB, WITH EMPHASIS ON SEX OFFENDERS. SI CC SENT VIA AMSD.

END ACK PLS

9-00 BM OK FBI WA WS

/PAGE SIX RETYPED WS/

MR. ROSEN
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

7 -8782 - 88

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

January 14, 1958

The following investigation was conducted by SA
ROBERT L. WILSON:

On December 7, 1957, Mrs. FRANCES IVY RIDULPH, 616 Archie Place, Sycamore, mother of the victim, advised as follows: Mrs. RIDULPH recalled that the family completed dinner about 5:30 PM (on December 3, 1957), as was their custom. She recalled that about 5:50 PM, MARIA went outside to play with her neighbor playmate, KATHY SIGMAN. In this regard, she said after considering the matter, that MARIA had asked her early in the day if she could play outside after dark with KATHY and appeared unusually eager to go out, as if she had a purpose in mind.

She said MARIA normally did not play out after supper during the winter because it was dark and cold and she was not the outdoor-type girl. She said in the summer MARIA almost always played outside with the other children, while it was light. She said that MARIA after supper asked again if she could go out and Mrs. RIDULPH gave permission. She said MARIA then rushed to the telephone and called KATHY SIGMAN and said, "I can go out--can you?" and apparently KATHY replied affirmatively.

She said MARIA, in preparing to go out, asked if she must wear her shabby tan overcoat which was a seven-year old coat handed down from her brother, CHARLES. Mrs. RIDULPH insisted that she wear it so that she would not wear out her newer coats. Mrs. RIDULPH said that she normally does not grant permission to MARIA to play outside at night but for some reason, she allowed her to do this on this occasion.

At about 6:00 or 6:05 PM, Mrs. RIDULPH and her 15-year old daughter KAY, left the house to drive KAY to her music lesson, and at that time they both saw MARIA on the sidewalk in front of the house with her playmate, KATHY SIGMAN, headed toward the corner of Archie Place and Center Cross Street.

About 6:15 PM, as she returned from taking KAY to the music teacher, Mrs. RIDULPH recalled she saw KATHY and MARIA still playing, on the corner. On the outbound trip she recalled an oil truck delivering oil to the CLIFF house at the corner but could not specifically recall the truck being there on her return. She said she thought but was not certain that the oil truck was parked on

Interview with Mrs. FRANCES IVY RIDULPH

on 12/7/58 at 616 Archie Place, Sycamore

by Special Agent ROBERT L. WILSON
RLW:JEM

Dictated: 1/7/58

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the Agency to which loaned.

Center Cross Street in front of the CLIFFE house with its rear end projecting slightly into Archie Place. As she returned she definitely recalls that MARIA and KATHY were on that corner by the big tree and that MARIA called and waved to her as she drove by. There was no other person with them at that time.

About 6:40 p.m., while Mrs. RIDULPH was in her first floor bedroom reading the newspaper, MARIA came into the bedroom and said she wanted a doll. Mrs. RIDULPH inquired what doll she wanted and MARIA designated a new, good doll. She refused to allow MARIA to take the new doll outside for fear of damaging it and suggested she get an older one. MARIA then left the room and went into the living room where Mr. RIDULPH was watching television. Mrs. RIDULPH heard her rummaging around in her "corner" in the southwest corner of the living room, which is immediately opposite the bedroom wall, and she assumed that she took one of her older dolls from her pile of toys in the corner. She did not see her take this doll and thinks she went outside again but did not see her leave.

At this time her daughter PATRICIA was in the dining room of the house doing her homework. Mr. RIDULPH was still watching television in the living room and her son CHARLES was in the den at the rear of the house with his nextdoor neighbor chum RANDY STROMBOM, listening to records.

At about 6:45 p.m., Mrs. RIDULPH said KATHY SIGMAN came to the side door of the house and inquired of CHARLES where MARIA was. CHARLES came to the bedroom door and told her that KATHY couldn't find MARIA. KATHY then left after being told that MARIA was not in the house.

About 6:50 p.m., KATHY came back and told CHARLES that MARIA was lost. CHARLES reported this to Mrs. RIDULPH and she went into the living room and told her husband.

A few moments later Mr. RIDULPH went out on the side porch and called MARIA. A moment later, Mrs. RIDULPH put on her coat and joined her husband outside. They walked to the corner and called for MARIA with negative results. Out on the sidewalk they encountered KATHY and her 11-year old brother EDWARD. They asked the SIGMAN children where MARIA was and

they said they did not know. It was Mrs. RIDULPH's impression that EDWARD might have been with KATHY in the area when she came to the house the second time but she could not recall the basis for this idea. The SIGMAN children headed west on Archie Place toward their home.

Mrs. RIDULPH said she and her husband then looked in the backyard and at the corner and continued to call for MARIA.

Mrs. RIDULPH then returned to the house where she telephoned Mrs. SIGMAN to inquire if MARIA was there. Mrs. SIGMAN said she was not there but her own children were there.

Mrs. RIDULPH then went to the front of the house and conferred with her husband while CHARLIS and his friend RANDY took a flashlight and went out to look for MARIA. Mrs. RIDULPH went across the street to the WILLIAM LINDSTROM house to inquire about MARIA with negative results.

She returned and telephoned Mrs. SIGMAN again. Mrs. SIGMAN now told her a man had been playing with KATHY and MARIA but no further information.

Mrs. RIDULPH now backed their car out, picked up her husband, and drove to Roosevelt Court, a deadend street parallel to Archie Place and immediately to the north. MARIA had in the past occasionally played with a JOHN PETERSON who lives on this street. Mr. RIDULPH got out of the car and with his whistle, whistled for MARIA and he looked in the window of the PETERSON house but said he saw only two ladies watching television and did not make inquiry there.

They next drove west on DeKalb Avenue where they encountered their daughter PATRICIA and CHARLIS and RANDY, somewhere in the vicinity of DeKalb Avenue and Fair Street. They took them in the car and circled the block and returned home without seeing MARIA.

By this time other neighbors in the area were aware of MARIA's disappearance and were out seeking her also.

About 7:25 p.m., KAY returned from her music lesson and was told of MARIA's disappearance.

Sometime after 7:30 p.m., Mrs. RIDULPH called Mrs. SIGMAN to inquire from KATHY what MARIA had taken outside and was told it was a doll. She said she thought Mrs. SIGMAN at this time mentioned something about a man giving the girls piggy-back rider but could not clearly recall.

-29- 7-8782 -187

Finally she decided to report MARIA's disappearance to the police and she and PATRICIA drove to the police station. On the way, however, they drove past a creek on Mill Street on the chance that MARIA might be playing near it and then drove through a lumber yard on Grant Street since she might be playing among the piles of lumber. She said MARIA was not known to frequent these places but they simply went there with the thought of just looking anywhere. She recalled that when she left the house it was about 7:50 p.m.

After driving through the above mentioned places, they drove straight to the police station and reported MARIA's disappearance. After telling the story to the police she understood they dispatched police cars to the area of their home.

Mrs. RIDULPH and PATRICIA then drove to the Elmwood Cemetery in the event MARIA had wandered up there as she had strayed there a year or so previous and then returned home where the area was being searched by neighbors and authorities.

Mrs. RIDULPH said she had wanted to contact the police shortly after MARIA was reported missing but her husband dissuaded her, explaining that MARIA had probably just strayed a short distance away and it would be embarrassing and cause a great commotion if she was located a short distance from home.

Mrs. RIDULPH said MARIA has played with KATHY SIGMAN for years and that KATHY is her closest chum. They get along well together with only the minor frictions that would normally be expected of children that age.

The RIDULPHs are casually acquainted with the SIGMANs and are on a first name basis but do not have social contact.

Mrs. RIDULPH noted that when the two girls play at the SIGMAN house, they are not permitted in the house but must remain in the unheated garage as Mrs. SIGMAN does not want her home dirtied by the children.

As a result of this, the two girls usually play at the RIDULPH home when they play indoors as Mrs. RIDULPH displays a more liberal attitude.

- 30 -

7 - 8782 - 187

Mrs. SIGMAN, said Mrs. RIDULPH, is quick to complain to her if MARIA hurts KATHY in their play or in their infrequent arguments and aggressively takes her child's part. She said the girls occasionally hit each other or fight over something and one or the other gets the worst of it, but the children quickly forget their differences and are as close friends as ever. Mrs. RIDULPH said there is no animosity between the 2 families and she regards the SIGMANS as people of good reputation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

Date: 1/14/58

The following investigation was conducted by SA
ROBERT L. WILSON:

On December 7, 1957, MICHAEL RIDULPH, 616 Archie Place, Sycamore, Illinois, father of victim, advised of the following: On December 3, 1957, the family completed supper about 5:30 p.m. Mr. RIDULPH recalled that from that time until about 6:30 p.m. he read the paper in the living room. He thinks but is not certain that he began to watch television about 6:30 p.m. He thinks the program was "Cheyenne" or the "Jim Bowie" show or perhaps some other frontier program.

He cannot recall specifically but thinks MARIA went out to play about 6:15 p.m. He could not specifically recall her asking permission but assumed she would have consulted her mother before going out.

Mr. RIDULPH recalls that at an undetermined time while he was watching television, MARIA went into the living room and went to her "corner". This is the southwest corner of the living room where she keeps some toys. After going to her corner for a moment, MARIA went out. He could not recall if she took anything from the corner or what she was wearing.

Mr. RIDULPH was still watching television when he heard KATHY SIGMAN, MARIA's favorite playmate, talking to his son, CHARLES, who was listening to records in the den with his nextdoor neighbor chum, RANDY STROMBOM.

CHARLES came in the living room and told him that KATHY said MARIA could not be found. Mr. RIDULPH then went out the side door of the house and saw KATHY and her eleven year old brother EDWARD in the drive. He called MARIA from the steps, then went down to the sidewalk and called, and finally walked down to the corner of Archie Place and Center Cross and called, again with negative results. Mrs. RIDULPH then came out and they took their car and drove around the block searching for MARIA. They returned home. He thinks Mrs. RIDULPH then called Mrs. SIGMAN down the block on Archie Place to inquire as to where MARIA might be. He could not recall what Mrs. SIGMAN replied.

Interview with MICHAEL RIDULPH

File # 7-806

on 12-7-57 at 616 Archie Pl., Sycamore, Illinois

Date Dictated: 1/7/58

by Special Agent ROBERT L. WILSON

- 35 -

8782 - 187

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

He then got out his police whistle which he sometimes uses to call the children and went outside and blew the whistle for MARIA. He and his wife then drove in the car to Roosevelt Court, a street parallel to Archie Place and immediately to the north, and whistled for MARIA. She sometimes plays with a PETERSON boy in that block and he looked in the window of the PETERSON home but saw only two women watching television and did not go in.

Mr. RIDULPH stated his wife then took the car and went to the police station to report MARIA missing but he could not recall if anyone accompanied her.

Mr. RIDULPH said he then telephoned the PENS family on Fair Street, whose daughter is a schoolmate of MARIA's, but Mr. PENS stated she was not there although she had been there early that afternoon after school.

His daughter KAY insisted that he go to the Police Department and report MARIA's disappearance and assist his wife so he drove there in the family's second car. When he arrived at the police station he found that his wife had just left after reporting MARIA's disappearance and he provided them with what details he had. While at the police station he met his daughter KAY who had walked there and he drove her home. He then joined a friend, GLENN MOORE, and with flashlights they searched the area around his home. He says that they saw footprints of a man in the thin snow lying on a plowed field behind the JOHNSON house at 515 Center Cross Street and noted these footprints were headed in the general westerly direction of the intersection of DeKalb Avenue and Fair Street. He could not recall the character or appearance of these footprints and noted that they were all obliterated by searchers in the area and when the snow melted the following morning.

Mr. RIDULPH said he then later joined another friend and neighbor STANLEY WELLS, who lives on Center Cross Street, and drove rather aimlessly down to Electric Park Road near a creek and Lover's Lane and search there.

He and WELLS then drove to DeKalb, Illinois about five miles away to make sure that the police there had been alerted. He met a police car on the street and the officers told him they were aware of MARIA's disappearance.

They then searched various gravel pits and dumps near Cortland, Illinois, with the thought in mind that MARIA might have been the victim of foul play and her body deposited there. He later returned home and joined the general search in the area.

He recalled that in searching the general area behind and to the west of his home, he saw a strange man about 40 years old come out of the CARR house on Fair Street and inquired of an unknown person with him who the man was and was told he was the CARR son. He said this man acted peculiarly but could give no explanation of what he meant by peculiarly. He said this man then went inside and secured heavy shoes and came out and joined the search for MARIA. He said he had never seen this man before.

Mr. RIDULPH said when MARIA was first reported by KATHY as missing he had been reluctant to contact the police for fear of personal embarrassment since it was logical to assume that she had only strayed a short distance away and would be quickly found.

Mr. RIDULPH said he has no enemies of any kind and has no idea of anyone who might wish to harm him or any member of his family. He said MARIA was a happy, intelligent child who had never run away before and had never given any inclination that she wished to run away. He said she had behaved well, had not been recently punished, and had displayed no resentment against anyone in the family or anyone else. He said the family gets along well together and he and the entire family loved MARIA very much.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

Date: 1/14/58

The following investigation was conducted by SA
ROBERT L. WILSON:

On December 7, 1957, KAY FRANCES RIDULPH, 616 Archie Place, Sycamore, Illinois, 15 year old sister of the victim advised of the following information.

She said that they finished dinner about 5:30 p.m. and could not recall when MARIA went out. She recalled that about 6:00 p.m. on December 3, 1957, she and her mother left the house so that her mother could drive her to her music lesson in another part of town. As they went out she recalled seeing MARIA and her neighbor playmate KATHY SIGMAN on the sidewalk outside.

She walked back to the house arriving about 7:25 p.m. and learned that MARIA had disappeared.

At about 7:30 p.m. she and her brother CHARLES went to KATHY SIGMAN's house a few doors away on the same street to inquire of KATHY the circumstances of MARIA's disappearance.

KATHY told them that a man approached them on the corner of Archie Place and Center Cross Street, where they were playing and asked if they wanted a piggy back ride. KATHY declined but MARIA accepted and the man gave MARIA a piggy back ride to the JOHNSON driveway a distance of about 50 feet. Here she got off and they both walked back to the corner. At this point KATHY's hands got cold and she went home to get her gloves. She returned a short while later and MARIA and the man were gone. KATHY described the man as white, blue pants, said his name was JOHNNY, age 24, and told them he was not married. KATHY said he talked "like we used to". KAY said she assumed that the man talked like a hillbilly as the SIGMANs talk in that fashion.

KAY asked Mrs. SIGMAN if she had told her mother of this information and Mrs. SIGMAN replied that Mrs. RIDULPH had called her but became hysterical and hung up.

KAY now returned home and found her father was the only one in the house. She inquired if her mother knew that the unknown man's name was JOHNNY and was a hillbilly and he told her that he didn't think she knew. Her father then got out the family's second car and drove to the police station to add that information to what his wife had already reported.

Interview with KAY FRANCES RIDULPH File # 7-806
on 12-7-57 at 616 Archie Pl., Sycamore, Illinois Date Dictated: 1/7/58
by Special Agent ROBERT L. WILSON - 43 - 7 8782 - 187

b jw
Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

CG 7-806

KAY now told CHARLES who returned to the house to remain there to answer the phone while she walked to the Police Station. There she met her father and returned home with him.

She later joined searchers in the area and examined the vicinity of the JOHNSON garage on Center Cross Street without seeing MARIA's doll in the drive.

About 9:00 p.m. she recalled that she, her sister PAT, and a neighbor, Mrs. STROMBOM found the doll in the drive in front of the garage. She is certain it was not there when she searched before. On finding the doll she and PAT burst into tears and rushed home.

She said later that evening her father drove to DeKalb, Illinois, to alert the police there as there are reportedly some hillbillies living in that area.

KAY said MARIA was well-behaved and on good terms with the family. She has never ran away before and would have no reason to now. Mrs. BIDULPH gave her extra attention as the baby of the family. She said they all loved her very much and MARIA was happy. She could think of no one who would take MARIA and she knew of no family enemies. MARIA has never stayed away from home except when with the family on a trip.

- 14 -

7 - 8782 - 187

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Field Office CHICAGO	Office of Origin CHICAGO	Date 2/10/58	Investigative Period 12/4-31/57; 1/2,3,6,9,10,15,17,23,29/58
Title of Case UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa. Johnny; MARIA ELIZABETH CRIDULPH - VICTIM		Report made by SOL E. DENNIS	Typed By JEM
		Character of Case <p style="text-align: center;">KIDNAPPING</p>	

Information received from De Kalb County SO and Sycamore, Illinois Police Department to effect victim, 7 years age, believed to have been abducted by unsub on night 12/3/57 at Sycamore, Illinois, after having been approached by unsub while she and playmate, MARY CATHERINE SIGMAN, known as KATHY, were playing. Temporary headquarters established at Sycamore, Illinois., 12/4/57 to 12/26/57 and intensive investigation conducted. Additional information obtained during further interviews with KATHY SIGMAN and all members victim's family reported herein. Victim's blood type not known. No known fingerprints of victim available. Victim's footprints on birth certificate located but same not of value for comparison purposes. Number of associates and friends victim's family and victim, interviewed negatively. Numerous neighbors interviewed and no actual eyewitnesses to abduction. H. E. "TON" BRADY recalls having seen victim and KATHY playing in front CLIPPE residence while he delivered oil there from approximately 6:00 PM to 6:15 PM, 12/3/57 but did not see unsub. KENNETH DAVY, neighbor, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. ROY PLEFFER, saw victim and KATHY playing on corner approximately 6:30 PM. Mrs. STANLEY WELLS recalls looking out window between 6:30 PM and 7:00 PM

Approved: <i>[Signature]</i> Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
Copies made: 2 - Bureau (7-8782) (Encl. 2) 5 - Chicago (7-806)	7-	8782-	147 REC-14 18 FEB 14 1958 STAT/SECT.

ENCLOSURE

MAR 12 1958

7 8782-187
7 8782-187

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

CG 7-806

and seeing 2 children playing and an individual, whom she assumed to be an adult, talking to them. She not able to determine whether children or individual were male or female. Upon hearing shriek at 7:00 PM, she again looked out the window but saw no one. ELMER WESTBURG, neighbor looked out the window upon hearing girl scream at 7:00 PM, but saw nothing. H. E. BRADY assisted in search night 12/3/57, following victim's disappearance and observed large and small footprints in light snow, leading to right of garage on JOHNSON property. Similar footprints around center of plowed truck garden area West of garage, but no indication of dragging. Mrs. MERIDITH STROMBOM advised she found victim's doll about 2 feet from above garage between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM, 12/3/57, after other searchers who had previously searched in same area, had not seen doll. Crime scene searches by agents negative. Additional physical searches made by agents and other groups negatively. Various items of clothing found during searches not victim's. Twenty square mile search conducted by helicopters and planes 12/19,20/57 negative. Interviews with persons who applied for employment, guests at hotels and motels, dentists, tradesmen and service personnel, persons who received parking tickets and observed in area on night 12/10/57, negative. Photographs of various former inmates of a number of mental and penal institutions obtained and not identified by KATHY. Results of laboratory examinations set forth. No extortion calls, letters or demands received.

- P -

- 1A 7 8782 - 18

July 27, 1958

To: Lt. E. Toffant
From: Troopers D. Fraher & R. Bales
Subject: Summary of ^{WEEK #} Investigation on Maria Ridulph Case

At this point of the investigation we returned to the Sycamore-DeKalb area. We feel certain facts might have been overlooked.

Following this line we first interviewed Tom Braddy, the Standard Oil Bulk dealer in Sycamore who figured prominently in the case because he had delivered oil in the immediate area of the crime on the evening of December 3rd. Braddy appears to be reliable and sincere and stated he was most anxious to see the case come to a successful end. He stated further that he was delivering oil to Mrs. Cliff's home on the corner of Archie and Centercross that evening, left the area at 6:15 P.M., passed a service station at 6:20 P.M. on the way back to his bulk station, and left the tank truck at the bulk station and proceeded home in his pickup truck. While eating his dinner he got up to answer the phone at no later than 7:10 P.M. The call was from Mrs. Cliff from where he had just made the oil delivery at 6:15 P.M. Recalling her conversation as close as possible, Mrs. Cliff asked, "Did you see any stranger with the Ridulph girl when you were here making the oil delivery? Cathy said some man was with them." He answered her that he had seen the girls but no stranger, and offered to come down and join the search. He and his son Dale left the house on Fairplace on Rt. 64 and proceeded to Archie & Centercross, which is about 2½ blocks from his home. They got out to start to search and were joined on the corner by Bud Sigman. Together the three walked South on Centercross and got as far as the Johnson driveway where they noticed footprints. One set of footprints were of adult size and the footprints to the right of the adult's were those of a child. He compared the adult footprints with his own size. Believes it was a size 9. The footprints lead up to the Johnson garage. The last adult print showed a sharp movement to the right, such as one would make when using body-english, to either throw a doll or pick up the girl. They noticed that the snow was undisturbed except for these prints. They attached so much importance to finding these prints that Braddy instructed Bud Sigman and his son to go around the garage quickly, "and then we'll have him". (It should be pointed out that these prints went up and did not return back down the drive.) When they didn't find the offender at this point, Braddy walked over through the back yards and garden area and between a small tractor shed and a plowed area found two more adult footprints in the snow. He searched the tractor shed, went west, searched another barn, continued west out onto Fairplace and by a utility pole at the edge of the street noticed fresh tire tracks in the snow, indicating someone had pulled in sharply and pulled out sharply, going north on Fairplace to Rt. 64. The tracks indicated regular tread and not snow tires.

The above information indicates to us:

1. That it was known a man was with Maria at a much earlier time than was indicated by previous reports.
2. That the man went west and across the back lots and got into an auto on Fairplace and did not walk south on Centercross towards DeKalb Ave. and then get into an auto.

3. Cutting through the lots this way indicates possibility he is familiar with the area and could be local.
4. We took the same route the offender obviously used and it is not obstructed in any manner. Diagrams of this block that were previously made indicated fences that do not exist.